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The argument that teachers should have reduced rates on the railroads is not conclusive. Such substitution of perquisites for adequate salary for any occupational group is not liable to promote its ultimate best interests, or its standing in the community.

For the general student of the practical conduct of play, it is interesting to note that the principal conclusions that may be derived from this concrete study of one particular group bear out those reached with reference to the whole field of recreation, namely: that the possession of leisure by any group carries with it very little value unless that leisure is properly utilized; that actual play in America at present has much too little of sports and other active forms; that play of the right sort will not, under present conditions, arise spontaneously, but that it requires a definite, thought-out plan; that there must be some person with skill and vision to give his time to the business of leadership and organization.

While there is much in this volume that is valuable for other groups than teachers, it is desirable that there should be studies of a similar nature for other occupational and age groups. The time has come in the recreation movement for a much more specialized attention to the needs of different sections of the population.

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Crime and Criminals. The Jurisprudence of Crime, Medical, Biological and Psychological. By CHARLES MERCIER. With an Introduction by SIR BRYAN DONKIN. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1919. Pp. xvii+290. \$2.50.

Past theories of crime and criminals—in so far as they are not based on an assumption of free-will—have frequently run to one of two extremes. Either they have tried to state everything in terms of the make-up of the offender himself or they have ascribed all to environment. Thus we have on the one hand Lombroso's theory of the "born criminal" and Dr. Hickson's statement that "delinquency and defectiveness are practically synonymous." Over against these is the implication of Bonger that "society and not the criminal is responsible." Mercier sees the impossibility of solving the problem as stated, viz.: Is heredity *or* environment accountable for crime? He is seeking for a restatement of the problem and for a hypothesis which will include *both* of these apparently conflicting ideas. He is trying to put the whole matter on a new basis. He is endeavoring to relate the

"inner and the outer" aspects of conduct, "heredity and stress," "proclivity and temptation," "temperament and opportunity."

"Crime—and in crime I now include offenses of all minds—is due to temptation or opportunity, the environment factor or stress, acting upon the predisposition of the offender, the inherent or constitutional factor. The more potent the one factor, the less of the other will be needed to bring about the result. A very powerful and alluring temptation will break down the virtue of even a very moral person, who would not succumb to any ordinary temptation. A thoroughly immoral person, inured to crime, will require scarcely any temptation—no more, in fact, than amounts to opportunity—to induce him to commit crime; but without some remnant, some vestige, of criminal proclivity the first would not succumb to the temptation, however powerful it might be; and without opportunity the second would remain crimeless, however strong his proclivity to crime" (p. 224).

"According to this doctrine of mine, all men are by nature potential criminals" (p. 228). "He [the criminal] differs from the average man or from the mean of mankind in precisely the same ways as all other men differ from the average or from the mean—in the same ways, and to extents that differ with each criminal as they differ with every non-criminal. The difference between the criminal and non-criminal is, in short, first in the combination in various degrees of qualities that both and all possess in common, and second, that the criminal is subjected to temptation that, relatively to his combination of qualities, is excessive. It may be a temptation that would be no temptation to the average man. It may be a temptation that would be no temptation to a differently constituted criminal; but relatively to the particular person to whom the temptation is presented it is excessive. It reaches his breaking strain, and he gives way. The breaking strain differs in different people, and in the same person is different for different temptations; but every one has his breaking strain in some direction or other, and if in this direction he is tempted beyond his strength, he will fall" (p. 231).

In these words we have a summary of Mercier's contribution. Doubtless this statement is superficial and crude, especially from the viewpoint of the behaviorists, but even without translation into language with which Americans are more familiar it should prove highly suggestive. Mercier's thesis is particularly apropos in view of the current popular notion that there is a "criminal type" and that it is to be defined in terms of hereditary mental defect. Such expressions

as that of Dr. Hickson in the 1917 Report of the Psychopathic Laboratory of the Chicago Municipal Court seem quite the fashion today. But in this effort to relate heredity to environment in a vital, integral manner we have a new perspective that promises much greater returns in the practical control of crime.

But it is most unfortunate that in performing this distinctive service Mercier has involved himself in a lot of outworn ideas. The background of his argument is a "faculty" psychology (p. 47), a Spencerian sociology (p. 81), an absolutistic ethics (pp. 57-58), and a deductive logic (Introduction). His description of human and animal behavior is excessively rationalistic (p. 12). His assumption of a distinctive "social instinct" does not accord with the results of laboratory study (pp. 83, 90). His criteria for measuring "turpitude" are almost amusing (pp. 267-73). His definition of crime is so thoroughly subjective as to be incapable of scientific use (p. 71). Throughout the book he deals with the individual as a distinct entity, which he is enabled to relate to other individuals only by inventing the "social instinct" already mentioned.

On the whole the book is a great disappointment. Mercier had a splendid opportunity to resolve the outworn problem of heredity versus environment into a new statement that would more nearly accord with the results of careful study as well as everyday experience. He had an unusual chance to save correctional theory and practise from certain faddists. But the underlying premises and the whole method are such as to discredit what might otherwise have been an important contribution to the literature of criminology. It is to be hoped that someone with more modern scientific training will avail himself of the cue Mercier has offered and give us a good working statement of criminal behavior.

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A Book of Remarkable Criminals. By H. B. IRVING. New York: George H. Doran Co., 1918. Pp. viii+315. \$2.00.

This volume consists of a lengthy introduction which sets forth somewhat vaguely the author's philosophy of crime, followed by the history of ten notable criminals "chosen from among their fellows for their pre-eminence in character or achievement." From the reading of the introduction one gets a rather obscure notion of the author's purpose. First, it appears that the book is intended to prove "that the